

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending. Claims 1, 5, and 12 stand rejected. Claim 2 has been cancelled without prejudice or a disclaimer. New claims 13-20 have been added. Claims 1 and 12 are independent claims.

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 6 and 9-11 would be allowed if they are rewritten in independent forms and include all features of the base and any intervening claims. Applicant, however, wishes to defer rewriting claims 6 and 9-11.

Claims 1 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. ' 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Ohta *et al.* (U.S. 4,686,678) in view of Boudreau *et al.* (U.S. 5,694,048).

Claims 1 and 12, as amended, recite, an optical module comprising, *inter alia*, “an inductor as a choke **disposed on the silicon optical bench coupled to the laser diode.**” Support for the amendment can be found in original claim 2. As noted in the claim, the inductor is not only disposed on the silicon optical bench, but it is also coupled to the laser diode.

Ohta, as read by applicant, discloses a semiconductor laser apparatus with isolator containing a semiconductor laser diode (2) fused to a silicon heat sink (101), which the Office Action equates with the present silicon optical bench (Figure 1). However, nowhere in Ohta is there a disclosure of an inductor. As such Ohta fails to show “an inductor as a choke disposed on the silicon optical bench coupled to the laser diode,” as recited in claims 1 and 12.

Boudreau, as read by applicant, discloses a semiconductor submount that contains a V-groove and that mounts a laser diode and photo-detector. However, nowhere does Boudreau disclose an inductor. As such, Boudreau also fails to show “an inductor as a choke disposed on the silicon optical bench coupled to the laser diode,” as recited in claims 1 and 12.

Mizoguchi, as read by applicant, discloses a planar magnetic element, which the Office Action equates with the present inductor. However, Mizoguchi does not show that its inductor is connected to the laser diode. Accordingly, Mizoguchi also fails to disclose a planar magnetic element disposed on the silicon optical bench coupled to the laser diode, as does the inductor of claims 1 and 12.

As Ohta, Boudreau, and Mizoguchi, alone or in combination, fails to show, anticipate and/or render obvious "an inductor as a choke disposed on the silicon optical bench coupled to the laser diode," recited in claims 1 and 12, the references, alone or in combination fail to anticipate and/or render claims 1 and 12 obvious. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection in accordance to such non-anticipation and non-obviousness.

Claims 13-14 have been added. Claims 13 and 14 recite that the present optical module further comprises an impedance line. Support for the claims can be found in page 6, line 18-19. As such, no new matter has been added.

Claims 15-20 have been added. Claims 13 and 14 recite the feature originally contained in claims 3-8. As such, no new matter has been added.


Dependent claims in this application, including the new claims 13-20, are each dependent on the independent claims 1 and 12 and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

Amendment
Serial No. 10/625,160

Should the Examiner deem that there are any issues which may be best resolved by telephone, please contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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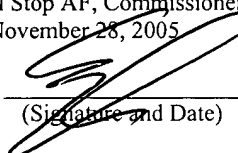
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